CLAIMS

1. A device for the earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor (2) and a ceiling (4), said partition having a framework comprising a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and uprights that are substantially vertical connecting the upper and lower rails, as well as a covering (6) fixed to said framework.

characterized in that comprises a slide (18) of profiled section, the slide being adapted to be joined to the upper rail (10) and having a substantially U-shaped section, and a top runner (30) adapted to be fixed to the ceiling (4) and partially housed in the slide (18) between the arms of its U-section, in that the slide (18) and top runner (30) are mounted such that they are able to move relative to each other in a vertical direction, and in that reversible snap-fitting means (26, 28) are provided between the slide (18) and the top runner (30).

2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the top runner (30) is in the form of a rail of profiled section comprising two side flanges (36) extending parallel to the arms (22) of the U-section of the slide (18) and within those arms.

3. A device according to claim 2, characterized in that each of the side flanges (36) of the top runner (30) and each of the arms (22) of the U-section of the slide (18) comprises a boss (26, 38) projecting inwardly respectively from the flanges (36) and from the arms (22), the bosses (26) of the slide (18) being adapted, when in resting position, to locate in the bosses (38) of the top runner (30).

4. A device according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the slide (18) comprises at each free end of the arms (22) of its U-section a rim (24) extending outwardly of the U, substantially perpendicular to the arms (22) of the U.

5. A device according to claim 4, characterized in that it further comprises an elastic joint (48) adapted to be located between a rim (24) of the slide (18) and the ceiling (4) on which the top runner (30) is fixed.

6. A device according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the top runner (30) is a member of profiled section comprising two side flanges (36) slidingly mounted between the arms (22) of the U-section of the slide (18) and also a housing (34), disposed between the side flanges (36), on the opposite side from the slide (18), and adapted to receive a material (35) having fire-retardant

properties.

7. A device according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it further comprises at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) disposed in the top runner (30).

8. A device according to claim 7, characterized in that said anchorage reinforcing member (16) is constituted by a U-section member disposed transversely with respect to the slide (18) and the top runner (30).

9. A partition having a framework comprising a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and uprights that are substantially vertical connecting the upper and lower rails, as well as a covering (6) fixed to said framework,

characterized in that the framework further comprises a device according to any one of claims 1 to 8.

10. A partition according to claim 9, characterized in that the covering (6) is fixed at its upper portion so as not to extend beyond the slide (18), thus leaving a free space between the covering (6) and the ceiling (4), it being possible for said space to be filled by a joint (48) of elastic material.

11. A partition according to one of claims 9 or 10, characterized in that the covering boards (6) are mounted so as to be floating with respect to the lower rail (8).

12. A partition according to one of claims 9 to 11, characterized in that a flexible mastic joint (46) is made between the floor (2) and the covering (6) fixed to the framework.

13. A partition according to one of claims 9 to 12, characterized in that at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) is disposed transversely in the lower rail (8).

14. A partition according to one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that it further comprises:

- two substantially vertical side edges, each associated with a substantially vertical side rail, and

- a device for the mounting of said partition on a substantially vertical wall, which mounting device comprises a slide (18) of profiled section, the slide being adapted to be joined to the side rail and having a substantially U-shaped section, and a vertical runner adapted to be fixed to the corresponding vertical wall

and partially housed in the slide (18) between the arms of its U-section,

and in that the slide (18) and the vertical runner are mounted such that they are able to move relative to each other in a horizontal direction, and in that reversible snap-fitting means (26, 28) are provided between the slide (18) and the vertical runner.